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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for transporting plastic pellets comprising moving plastic pellets through a conduit from an inlet to an outlet wherein the conduit has an inner surface with sufficient topography to cause substantially of all of the plastic pellets to tumble, wherein the inner surface topography comprises a groove, thread, protuberance, indentation or combination of two or more of these topographical features.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the topography comprises a groove, thread, protuberance, indentation, or combination of two or more of the foregoing.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the groove, thread, protuberance, indentation, or combination of two or more of the foregoing is arranged in a spiral geometry.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the groove, thread, protuberance, indentation, or combination of two or more of the foregoing is randomly arranged.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the groove, thread, protuberance, indentation, or combination of two or more of the foregoing is arranged in a non-spiral ordered fashion.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the groove and/or indentation has a width that is about 10 to about 50 percent of the longest average linear dimension of the plastic pellets.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the thread and/or protuberance has a height that is about 10 to about 50 percent of the longest average linear dimension of the plastic pellets.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the transported pellets comprise less than or equal to about 0.5 weight percent skins and strings based on the total weight of the transported pellets.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the conduit comprises a metal.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the conduit is rigid.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the conduit is flexible.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the plastic pellets comprise poly(arylene ether), polyamide, polyimide, polystyrene, polycarbonate and combinations of two or more of the foregoing resin.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the conduit is maintained at a temperature of about 100 to about 170°C.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the conduit is maintained at a temperature less than or equal to about 50°C below the glass transition temperature of the plastic pellet.

15. (Original) A method for transporting plastic pellets comprises: moving pellets comprising poly(arylene ether) and polyamide through a conduit from an inlet to an outlet, wherein the conduit has an inner surface comprising a groove, thread, protuberance, indentation or combination of two or more of the foregoing and the transported pellets contain less than or equal to about 0.5 weight percent skins and strings, based on the total weight of the transported pellets.